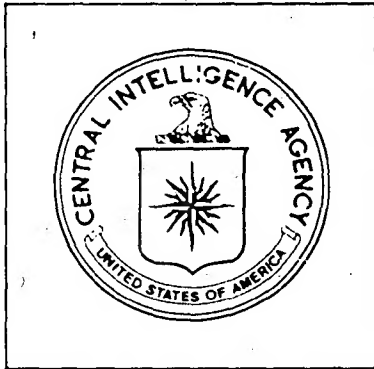


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APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐ DATE:
04-13-2011

Middle East-Africa-South Asia

STAFF NOTES

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CI SNME 76-122
OCI No. 0812/76
August 18, 1976

156

~~SECRET~~

North Yemen

Government Discord

Command Council Chairman Ibrahim Hamdi may find it necessary to shake up his government in the near future because of growing discord among the various factions represented in his diverse coalition.

[redacted] Colonel Hamdi's own position does not appear to be in jeopardy, but that some adjustments appear essential to prevent the government from falling apart.

Urban-tribal rivalry, Muslim sectarian differences, and--most important--leftist-rightist antagonisms within ruling circles have sharpened to the point that bickering in the two-year-old Hamdi regime has reached a new high level.

The Sana government's indecision about whether to accept Moscow's offer of aircraft, tanks, and other weapons has, for example, pitted [redacted]

[redacted] has been critical of the government's decision to buy Saudi-financed US and Western arms; he has complained about the delay in deliveries of Western military equipment.

[redacted]

[redacted]

Aug 18, 1976

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